

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01616 031008Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /009 W  
----- 002868

R 030900Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5944

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1616

DEPT. FOR AF/EX - NO DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE AF

LAGOS FOR WACASC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, MR

SUBJECT: PROPOSED WACASC ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

REF: STATE 157486

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR OUR VIEWS ON  
PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AT WACASC, WE URGE THAT  
CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO FOLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

A. ADDITIONAL SERVICES

-- ROVING, WELL - QUALIFIED REPAIRMAN WHO COULD MAKE FIRST  
ECHELON REPAIRS (BEARING IN MIND UNAVAILABILITY LOCALLY  
OF SPARE PARTS) ON OFFICE MACHINES HOUSEHOLD  
APPLIANCES, PARTICULARLY AIR CONDITIONERS AND  
REFRIGERATORS/FREEZERS. SPECIALIST COULD ALSO ADVISE  
WHAT ITEMS WACASC IS ABLE TO REPAIR.

B. FACILITIES AT WACASC

-- REPAIR FACILITY FOR OFFICE MACHINES, MAJOR APPLIANCES  
AND AIR CONDITIONERS.  
-- TRAINING FACILITY WHERE LOCAL EMPLOYEES COULD LEARN  
MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR AIR CONDITIONERS, APPLIANCES  
AND OFFICE MACHINES.

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01616 031008Z

C. SUPPLIES STOCKED BY WACASC

--SPARE PARTS FOR APPLIANCES AND OFFICE EQUIPMENT SOLD  
BY WACASC  
--TELETYPE SUPPLIES (PAPER, TAPE, RIBBONS)  
--TELEGRAM FORMS  
--PACKING MATERIAL  
--PAPER PRODUCTS (TOWELS, CUPS, TOILET PAPER, ETC.)  
--COMMONLY USED MEDICAL SUPPLIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE  
REQUIRING REFRIGERATION (SMALLPOX, TYPHOID, CHOLERA,  
GAMMA GLOBULIN, RABIES VACCINE, ETC.)

2. IN FUTURE, WE URGE THAT WACASC MONITOR MORE CAREFULLY  
EXPIRATION DATES OF CONSNA BLST. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD  
BE MADE TO AVOID SENDING ITEMS WHOSE EXPIRATION DATE  
HAS ALREADY BEEN PASSED OR WILL SOON BE REACHED.  
NOUAKCHOTT OCCASIONALLY RECEIVES COMMISSARY GOODS AND  
MEDICINES FROM WACASC THAT HAVE EITHER PASSED OR SOON  
WILL PASS EXPIRY DATE. CAREFUL MONITORING SHOULD  
ELIMINATE OR MINIMIZE THIS PROBLEM.

3. IN GENERAL, OUR EXPERIENCE WITH GSA HAS BEEN FAIR  
TO POOR. ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN UP TO SIX MONTH BACK  
ORDER DELIVERY TIMES. SOME ORDERS WERE ARBITRARILY  
CANCELLED. ORDERS FOR COMMONLY USED AND ABSOLUTELY  
ESSENTIAL ITEMS (E.G. TELETYPE PAPER AND TAPE) HAVE ON  
OCCASION BEEN FORWARDED TO SAN FRANCISCO TO BE FILLED,  
THUS INCREASING DELIVERY TIME TO AFRICA. ACTUAL METHOD  
OF SHIPMENT IS NOT ALWAYS KNOWN IN ADVANCE, I.E. SOME  
SMALL SHIPMENTS COME BY SURFACE/AIR POUCH WHILE OTHERS  
TURN UP UNEXPECTEDLY AT PORT OF DAKAR WITH NO ADVANCE  
NOTICE OR SHIPPING DOCUMENTS. ALTHOUGH ORDERS FROM GSA  
ARE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN SIMILAR ONES WERE FROM WACASC,  
LONG DELAYS FROM TIME ORDER IS PLACED UNTIL TIME IT IS  
RECEIVED AND RESULTANT REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE DESPERATELY NEEDED  
SUPPLIES ON THE VERY EXPENSIVE LOCAL MARKET MORE THAN OFFSET  
THIS COST SAVINGS.

4. OUR PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH TELETYPE  
SUPPLIES SUGGESTS MAGNITUDE OF OUR SUPPLY PROBLEM WHEN  
WE MUST DEPEND ON GS. DESPITE MANY TELEGRAMS ORDERING  
TELETYPE SUPPLIES SINCE EARLY 1975, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED  
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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01616 031008Z

ONLY TWO SHIPMENT OF TELETYPE PAPER. OUR DIFFICULTIES  
WITH GSA WERE SPELLED OUT IN SERIES OF TELEGRAMS TO DEPARTMENT  
INCLUDING ONE FROM AMBASSADOR TO DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HUNT (NOUAKCHOTT 2678, DECEMBER 29, 1975), WHICH DID PRODUCE  
RESULTS. TELEGRAMS IN THIS SERIES INCLUDED NOUAKCHOTT 2468  
(3 DEC 75), NOUAKCHOTT 2581 (16 DEC 75), NOUAKCHOTT  
2678 (29 DEC 75) AND STATE 001496 (5 JAN 76). ANOTHER  
SERIES OF TELEGRAMS DETAILING DIFFICULTIES WITH GSA INCLUDED

NOUAKCHOTT 2044 (6OCT75), NOUAKCHOTT 2153(21OCT75),  
AND NOUAKCHOTT 2405 (24NOV75).

FOLLOWING NON-RECEIPT IN TIEMLY FASHION OF TEELETYP  
SUPPLIES (ESPECIALLY TELETYPE PAPER) FROM GSA, EMBASSY  
CABLED REQUISITION TO OPR SUPPLY LIASON OFFICER ON APRIL  
19, 1976, (NOUAKCHOTT 0956) FOR 48ROLLS OF TELETYPEPAPER.  
WEHN WE REQUESTED STATUS OF ORDER ON JUNE 1 (NOUAKCHOTT  
1323), WE WERE INFORMED BY OPR/ST (STATE 145079 OF JUNE 13)  
THAT ORDER HAD BEEN CANCELLED ARBITRARILY BY GSA SINCE  
GSA HAD PUT WRONG ADDRESS ON SHIPMENT WHICH WAS DESTINED  
FOR SUPPLY SERVICES CENTER. TO DATE, NO PAPER HAS BEEN  
RECEIVED. ONLY THROUGH EMERGENCY LOANS FROM AMEMBASSY  
PARIS AND ABIDJAN HAS NOUAKCHOTT BEEN ABLE TO  
CONTINUE NORMAL OPERATIONS. AND WE STILL HAVE VERY LIMITED  
SUPPLY OF PAPER ON HAND -- 30 DAYS WORTH. WE HOPE TO  
RECEIVE SOON THE 48 ROLLS NOW BEING PROCESSED (STATE  
145079 OF 13 JUNE 76).

EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT HAS MADE ONE OR TWO MISTAKES OF ITS  
OWN IN DEALING WITH GSA. TWO REQUISITIONS WERE SUBMITTED  
TO GSA ON 10/9/75 WITH THE SAME JULIAN DATE. CONSEQUENTLY,  
FIRST ORDER WAS AUTOMATICALLY CANCELLED BY GSA'S COMPUTER  
(75 STATE 265010). BUT OUT OF NUMEROUS ORDERS FOR  
TELETYPE PAPER THAT WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO GSA(SOME  
THROUGH OPR/ST SUPPLY LIASON OFFICER), ONLY TWO  
SHIPMENTS HAVE REACHED NOUAKCHOTT, ONE BY AIR AND ONE BY  
SURFACE. SUPPLY PROBLEMS FOR A POST LIKE NOUAKCHOTT ARE  
DIFFICULT ENOUGH UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. WHEN  
WE MUST DEPEND ON BELOW-AVERAGE PERFORMANCE OF  
ORGANIZATION LIKE GSA, UNBELIEVABLE AMOUNT OF EMBASSY  
STAFF TIME MUST BE DEVOTED TO DEALING WITH SUPPLY  
AND PROCUREMENT PROBLEMS.  
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PAGE 04 NOUAKC 01616 031008Z

HANDYSIDE

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## Message Attributes

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